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Are you Discerning God's Calling for Global Service?



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Each of us is at a different place in our spiritual journey. For some, a tug of the heart to mission service occurred many years ago and is now growing much stronger. For others, it may be that they see so much need globally, and it is stirring something inside them. There

are others who have little doubt that God is calling them to mission service. No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, you want to be sensitive to the prompting and leading of the Spirit to global service.

I am reminded of 1 Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." In this text, we are reminded of the priesthood of all believers. Every believer is called to serve. The question is, to what extent? Are you called to be a global servant?

As people of faith, we reference the WORD. The Psalter in Psalm 119:105 states, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." I remember very clearly when I was seeking God's will in my life regarding my call to service, I was encouraged to spend time in God's word. The suggestion was that I select a book in the Bible and spend time asking, "Lord, what is your plan for my life?" When I did this, God started to light up the path for me. I began to see all pieces of my life coming together. Then came these words, "Behold my servant I have chosen...." That was it for me. I was at peace. God's word brightly lit up my path.

This was how my call came to me. Your experience will be different, and God may speak to you differently. Nonetheless, read and ask God to light up the path before you so that you can see what he wants you to do, and how he wants you to serve. God's light may not show you the destination, but certainly God will show you the next steps on the journey.

As the Holy Spirit begins to light up your path, I encourage you to talk with your pastor and other mature believers about what God is showing you. Invite them to pray with you. Get involved in mission trips, attend conferences and meet other global servants.

You can take a significant step by talking with me or other staff at International Ministries (IM). We will walk alongside you in the discernment process.

What is the process to become a Global Servant with IM?

There are five stages in this process:

Stage 1 - Preparation

- At this initial stage, you contact me by email at rragwan@internationalministries.org. An initial inquiry questionnaire will be sent to you.
- We will initiate a preliminary conversation with you via skype, facetime or WhatsApp. Depending on where you are spiritually, we will make a few suggestions to help in your discernment process, such as forming a personal prayer group and engaging in volunteer mission work. We will also encourage you to attend the IM [Hear the Call](#) weekend retreat and/or the [World Mission Conference](#).

Stage 2 - Discovery: Application & Assessment

After reviewing the initial questionnaire and talking with you, we will send you the Application Packet. Your completed application will be reviewed and a skype or telephone interview will follow. After the first interview, IM will send a Supplement Packet. The following will be required:

- Recommendation from the executive of candidate's American Baptist Churches (ABCUSA) region, or corresponding person for ecumenical appointments.

- Psychological assessment conducted by the Center for Ministry.
- Background check.
- Profile from American Baptist Personnel Services (for candidates enrolled in ABPS).
- Home visit conducted by IM Mission Mobilization staff (for candidate families with children).
- Second in-person interview with the Executive Director / CEO and other staff persons.

Stage 3 – Pre-assignment: Endorsement

- After completing the second interview, an endorsement vote will be taken by the IM Global Mission Team (GMT). The candidate may or may not be endorsed to serve through IM at this time.
- If endorsed to serve, the candidate will participate in an Endorsement Orientation at the King of Prussia, PA office and will begin a period of coaching for network-building and fundraising.
- Their Mission Partnership Team (MPT) will be formed and oriented.
- Candidate and MPT will build a Mission Partnership Network (MPN) and will secure commitments of prayer, encouragement and financial support.
- IM will begin receiving personalized gifts for Endorsee's financial support.
- Candidate may take a Vision Trip to their country of service to meet with partners and learn about their anticipated ministry.
- A recommendation for Appointment (making candidate an IM employee) will be voted by GMT after MPT is established and projected monthly average of support contributions reaches at least 25% of Personalized Support Goal (PSG).

Stage 4 – Pre-assignment: Appointment

- Candidate will become an employee of IM and will start to receive a living allowance, medical and retirement benefits.
- Candidate will participate in Appointment Orientation via skype and Security Training, Cross-Cultural / Language Acquisition Training and any additional specialized training required or needed.
- When projected monthly average of support contributions reaches 80% of Personalized Support Goal (PSG), authorization to schedule and plan the Commissioning Service will be granted. Candidate will be commissioned by the IM Board of Directors.
- Recommendation for Assignment will be voted by GMT after MPT has been established and projected monthly average of support contributions has reached 100% of PSG.

Stage 5 – Assignment & Sending

- Candidate will participate in Assignment Orientation at IM office.
- Candidate will secure visas, work documents, etc. and will depart for country of service.

Language School, if required, will be completed during the first year of the first term of service and may or may not take place in the country of service.